

CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing access to a service for a user in a communication system, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 using a specific record, associated with said user, at a node in the communication system, containing information which, determines that a user is to be verified prior to providing access to said service.
- 10 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - transferring said information from the AAA-H to the serving node in the signalling path for the service setup and/or service event and/or registration.
- 15 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - deciding based on said information that the authentication and/or authorization needs be verified.
- 20 4. The method as claimed in claim 1 and 3 further comprising the steps of:
 - performing the authentication and/or authorization.
- 25 5. The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
 - performing the authentication and/or authorization by using the AAA-H.

6. The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

performing the authentication and/or authorization in the node if the required parameters are available.

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7. A method for providing a user of user equipment with access to a service from a service provider node in a wireless communication system, comprising the steps of:

10 using a user specific record indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified prior to providing access to said service; and providing access to said service responsive to said user specific record.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

determining if said condition is satisfied; and providing access to said service without verifying said user characteristic if said condition is not satisfied.

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9. The method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

determining if said condition is satisfied; verifying said user characteristic if said condition is satisfied; and

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subsequent to said step of verifying the user characteristic providing access to said service if said user characteristic indicates the user is permitted access to said service.

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10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9 further comprising the steps of:

5 determining if said condition is satisfied when a call session between said user and said service provider node is initiated.

11. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9 further comprising the steps of:

10 determining from the user specific record associated with said user if said condition exists during a call session between said user equipment and said service provider node.

12. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 wherein said wireless communication system comprises a serving network in which said user equipment is located, and a home network, said method further comprising the step of:

20 indicating, via said user specific record, when access to said service is permitted without determining, from data stored at a node in said home network, if access is permitted.

13. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 wherein said wireless communication system comprises a serving network in which said user equipment is located, and a home network, said method further comprising the step of:

25 storing said user specific record at a node of said serving network.

14. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 13 further comprising the steps of:

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generating a register message at said user equipment and transmitting said register message to a local server node of said communication system;

5 determining if a condition indicated by said user specific record stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

transmitting said access message to said service provider node.

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15. The method as claimed in claim 14 further comprising:

prior to said step of storing said user specific record, generating a request message at said local server node and transmitting said request message to the home AAA server of
15 the user; and

transferring data comprising said user specific record from said home AAA server to said local server node responsive to said request message.

20 16. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 13 further comprising:

generating an invite message at said user equipment and transmitting said invite message to a local server node of said communication system;

25 determining if a condition indicated by said user specific record stored at said local server node is satisfied;

generating an access message at said local server node indicating that access to said service is permitted; and

30 transmitting said access message to said service provider node.

17. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 16 wherein said user characteristic comprises whether said user is authorised to access said service.

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18. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 16 wherein said user characteristic comprises whether said user is authenticated to access said service.

10 19. The method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 16 wherein said condition determines the frequency at which said user is to be authorised and/or authenticated during a call session between said user equipment and said service provider node.

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20. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein said step of using a specific record comprises storing a user specific record

20 21.. A server node of a communication system for providing a user of user equipment with access to a service from a service provider node, said server node comprising:

means for receiving a message from said user equipment;

25 means for using a user specific record, associated with said user, indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified prior to providing said user with access to said a service; and

30 means for generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message for providing said user with access to said service.

22. The server node as claimed in claim 21 further comprising:

5 means for transmitting said access message to a service provider node.

23. A server node as claimed in claim 21 or 22 further comprising:

10 means for receiving data comprising said user specific record transmitted from a home AAA server node.

24. A server node as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 23 comprising a serving or proxy-call session control function node.

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25. A server node as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 24 wherein said user specific record comprises a first data field identifying said user and a second data field determining when authentication and/or authorisation of said user is required
20 in order to access said service.

26. The server node as claimed in claim 21 wherein said means for using a user specific record comprises means for storing

25 27. Mobile user equipment, for providing a user with access to a service from a service provider node, comprising:

means for using a user specific record associated with said user, indicating a condition which, if satisfied, determines that a user characteristic is to be verified prior
30 to providing said user with access to said a service; and

means for generating, in response to said user specific record, an access message for providing said user with access to said service.

- 5 28. Mobile user equipment as claimed in claim 27 wherein said means for using a user specific record comprises means for storing a user specific record.